

April 15, 2013

**To:** NITC Commissioners  
**From:** Anne Byers  
**Subject:** eHealth Council Report

### **Membership**

The terms of several eHealth Council members are up for renewal. The eHealth Council also has two new member nominations. Additionally, Donna Hammack has resigned from the eHealth Council in light of her new responsibilities as an NITC commissioner.

### **Renewals**

- Senator Annette Dubas
- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, represented by Marie Woodhead
- Carol Brandl, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and Bryan LGH
- Wende Baker, Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network
- Kay Oestmann, Southeast District Health Department
- Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County
- Kimberly Galt, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

### **New Member Nominations**

- Patrick Werner, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (replacing Steve Urosevich)
- Kevin Borchert, Methodist Health System, replacing Joni Cover, Nebraska Pharmacists Association

### **Resignations**

- Donna Hammack, Saint Elizabeth Foundation

### **State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Update**

On March 15, 2010, the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Information Technology Commission received a four-year \$6.8 million health information exchange grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT.

Collectively, State Health Information Exchange grantees have spent just over 50% of their grant funds. Because the grant was structured to require an increasing percentage of match each federal fiscal year with a 33.33% match required this federal fiscal year, many states will be challenged to meet the matching requirements. Because our plan leveraged the services of an operational health information exchange (NeHIE), our implementation has been relatively smooth in comparison to other states. We have been able to expend 90% of our funds.

A summary of our expenditures is below.

	Expended	Allocated	% Expended	Balance
NeHII	\$4,821,468.49	\$4,898,275.00	98%	\$76,806.51
State/NITC	\$100,699.04	\$157,075.00	64%	\$56,375.96
Eval/UNMC	\$93,313.71	\$269,435.00	35%	\$176,121.29
eBHIN	\$982,627.53	\$1,112,275.00	88%	\$129,647.47
Pub Health	\$100,533.15	\$326,500.00	31%	\$225,966.85
Telehealth	\$70,802.01	\$73,620.00	96%	\$2,817.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,169,443.93</b>	<b>\$6,837,180.00</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>\$667,736.07</b>

**NeHII.** NeHII (Nebraska Electronic Health Information Initiative) continues to add hospitals, physicians, and other providers. Four hospitals completed the implementation process in the first quarter of 2013: Avera Creighton Hospital (Creighton), Avera St. Anthony's Hospital (O'Neill), Cass County Health System (Atlantic, IA), and York General Hospital (York). Other participating hospitals and payers include Alegent Health Hospitals (including Omaha, Papillion, Schuyler, Corning, IA, and Missouri Valley, IA), Children's Hospital and Medical Center (Omaha), Columbus Community Hospital (Columbus), Creighton University Medical Center (Omaha), Great Plains Regional Medical Center (North Platte), Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital (Hastings), Methodist Health System (Omaha), The Nebraska Medical Center (Omaha and Bellevue), Nebraska Spine Hospital (Omaha), Regional West Medical Center (Scottsbluff), Sidney Regional Medical Center (Sidney), and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska. Over 2,900 physicians and health care providers are using NeHII.

**The Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN).** Behavioral health providers participating in the Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN) began uploading demographic information to Magellan, the State of Nebraska's Administrative Service Organization, in June 2011. eBHIN is finishing deployment of HIE functionality in southeast Nebraska and is working on implementations in the Omaha area. eBHIN has developed an innovative approach to managing consent and authorization which will allow the exchange of health information with patient consent between the eBHIN and health care providers outside of eBHIN.

### **eHealth Goals for 2013**

The eHealth Council has set goals for 2013. The goals will be included as part of the 2013 state operational eHealth plan which will be submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator in early May. The goals are included in the meeting materials.

**Medication History/Prescription Drug Monitoring Functionality**

In 2011, Governor Heineman signed LB 237 which authorized the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with NeHII to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). NeHII's functionality allows physicians to view a patient's medication history and clinical information, enabling physicians to more safely prescribe controlled substances. LB 535, introduced by Senator Lathrop this session, would require changes to the current Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, including allowing access by law enforcement. LB 535 will likely not move forward this session. The issue is likely to be revisited next year.